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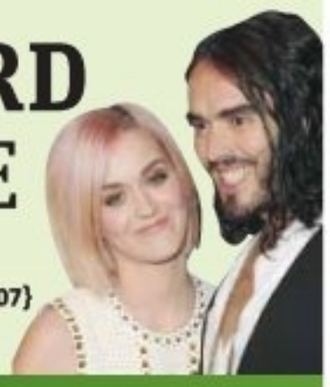
WHY THE SPLIT? {page 07}



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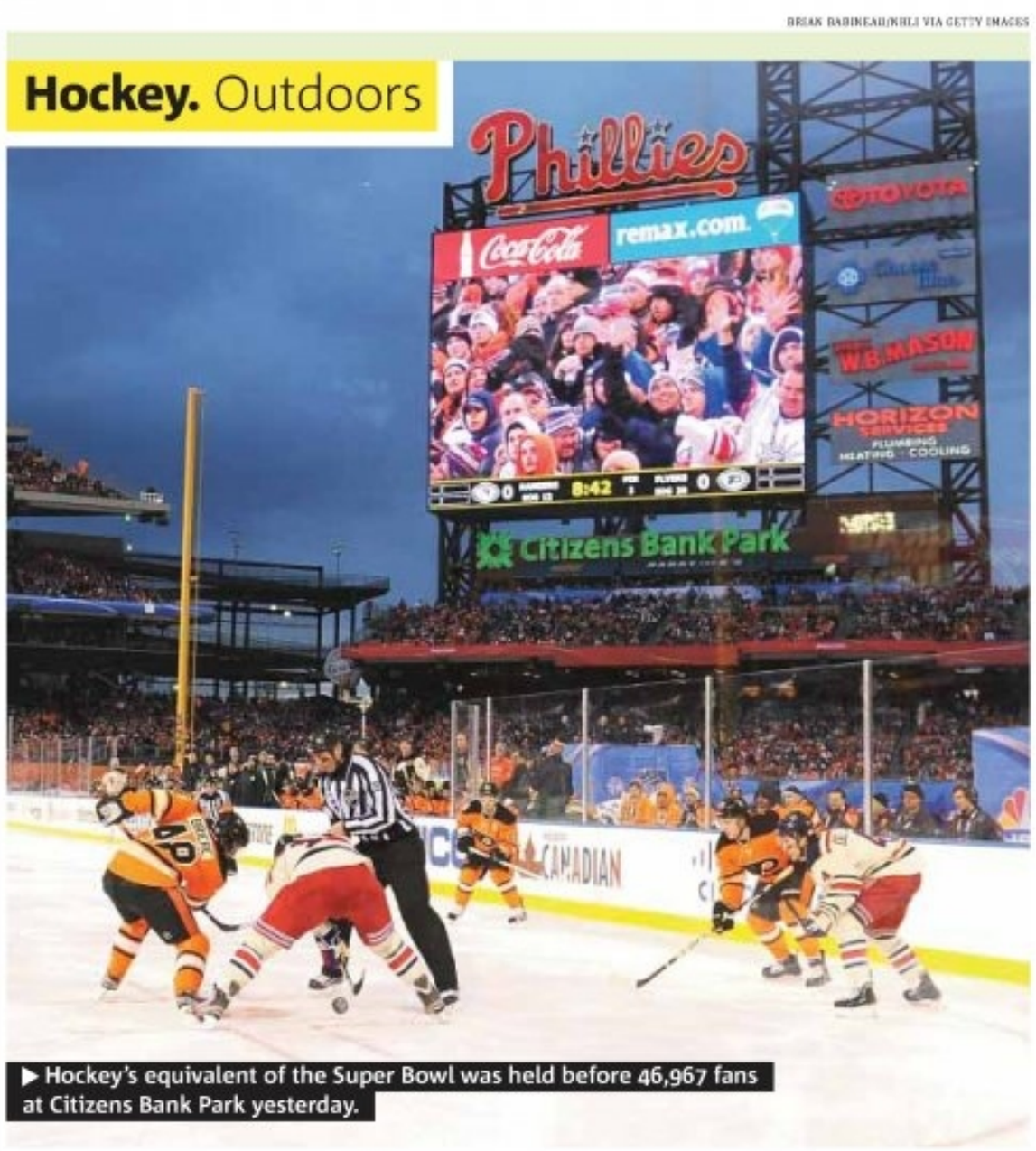
Hockey. Outdoors



▶ Hockey's equivalent of the Super Bowl was held before 46,967 fans at Citizens Bank Park yesterday.

Flyers lost, but city hockey fans won

The hometown team blew a 2-0 lead in the NHL's annual Winter Classic to lose 3-2 to the New York Rangers. The game was only part of the event, though. The Roots, some Broad Street Bullies and a light snow gave the city a rousing show. {page 04}

John Street protege takes reins of Council

◐ Ex-mayor's aide ascends to president ◐ Vows to work with Nutter, then disagrees on controversial issue {page 02}

News

Santorum alive again

◐ Former Pa. senator hopes to ride hot streak to victory at Iowa GOP caucus today {page 06}

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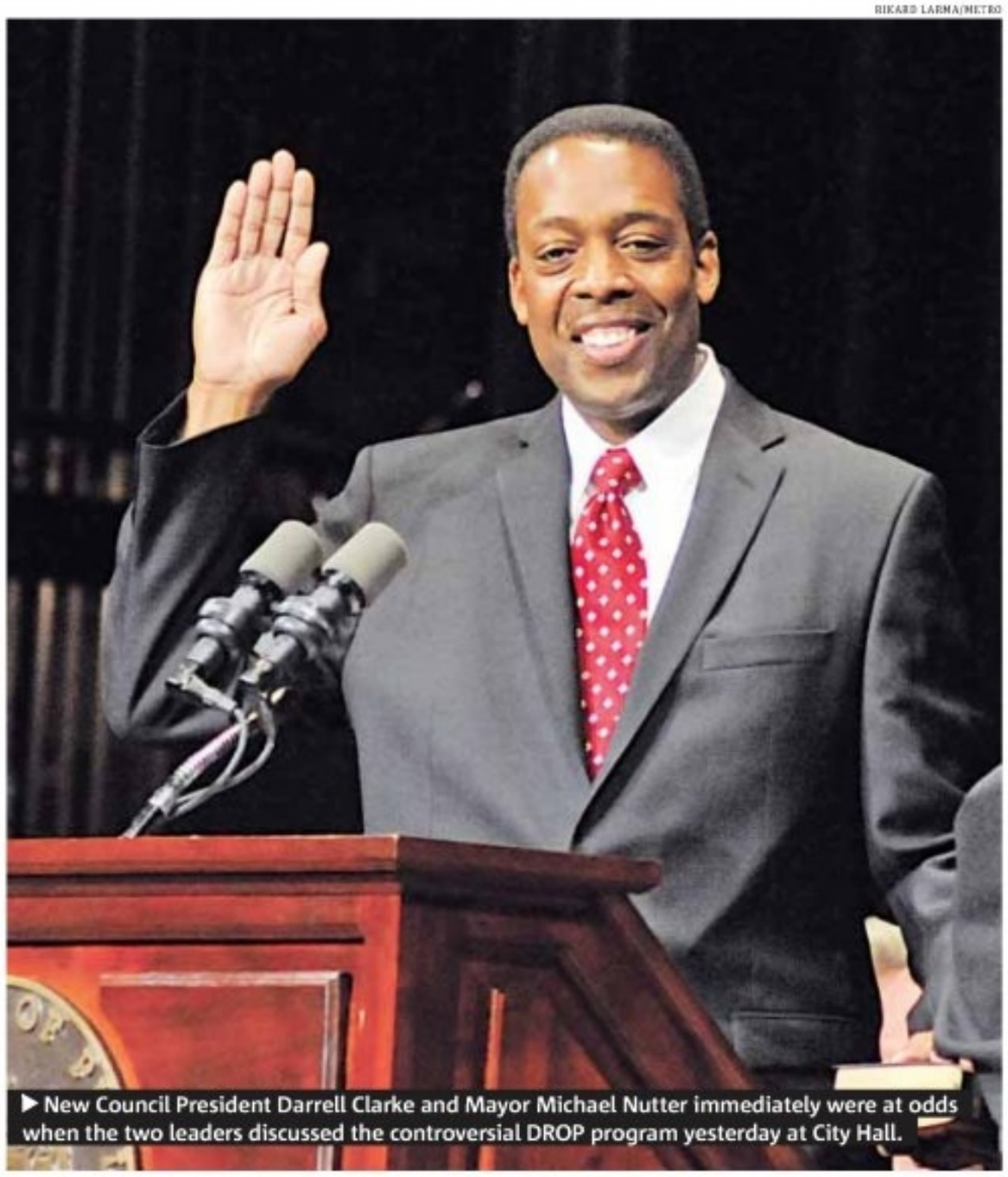
Nutter's rival Street back in mix again

Former mayor gains some clout back on Council Ex-aide Clarke says Street is always just a call away

RICARD LARMA/METRO



New Council President Darrell Clarke and Mayor Michael Nutter immediately were at odds when the two leaders discussed the controversial DROP program yesterday at City Hall.

A century of City Council experience went into the history books yesterday — replaced by six new members — and a former John Street protege, Darrell Clarke, was sworn in as Council president.

But one question lingered after all the pomp and circumstance surrounding the inauguration ceremony: Will former Mayor John Street have more influence over the incoming Council than current Mayor Michael Nutter?

"I think both Clarke and Nutter will try to establish a relationship with each other. Both recognize that they could use each other," Zack Stalberg of political watchdog Committee of Seventy said. "The odds are that they'll end up not getting along much of the time, which will give Street a chance to insert himself."

Clarke thanked his two mentors, former Council president Anna Verna and Street, who first hired him as a constituent service representative.

"I would not be standing here today if not for John Street," Clarke said. "Street always will be my friend and mentor — I'll always be able to call him up if I need advice — but as a 30-year municipal employee, I think I know what I'm doing by now."

He also added that Nutter "supported somebody else for Council president," but "the reality is, we have to work together."

Stalberg was dubious.

"Certainly on a day like today, everyone feels good and — generally speaking — says the right things. But whether that good feeling will prevail over time is anybody's guess."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Can't DROP it

Nutter and Clarke's disagreement on one issue was immediately evident.

"I'd like to see some action on the DROP program," longstanding opponent Nutter said as he and Clarke stood side by side. "At this point, I still don't believe DROP costs the city money," Clarke replied. "I know DROP is a big issue on peoples' minds, but ... it's not the biggest challenge as it relates to our pension problem."

"Clarke respects Street, and Street and Nutter don't like each other, so it's not hard to do the math." STALBERG

"There may be issues that brings us to an impasse, but ... nothing to do with who supported [whom]." CLARKE

"We have set Philadelphia on a fundamentally different path. But we're not done yet." NUTTER

In the news

9

Number of people arrested in Philadelphia for allegedly firing guns into the air to mark the new year. Ten others were arrested and charged with firearms violations related to brandishing weapons on Jan. 1. METRO

In the news

Betting on a bill
A New Jersey lawmaker wants to fast-track online gambling legislation, he told the Associated Press yesterday. State Sen. Raymond Lesniak, a Democrat from North Jersey, said it would help push the Garden State to the forefront of the industry, which may grow after a federal ruling recently didn't ban in-state betting. METRO

Fresh blood on Council

Mark Squilla, 1st District: A 25-year state systems analyst for the Auditor General, Squilla aims to create jobs through waterfront development and wants to cut Council salaries and perks.

Kenyatta Johnson, 2nd District: Former House Representative pledges safer neighborhoods, more job opportunities, better education and homeownership protection.

Bobby Henon, 6th District: Longtime political director for the electrician's union Local 98, he served on Mayor Street's 2003 transition team and has been involved in veterans and health projects.

Cindy Bass, 8th District: Bass served for a decade as senior policy advisor to U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah and is dedicated to increasing the role of women and minorities in politics.

David Oh, Councilman At-Large: Former assistant district attorney is Council's first Asian-American member. He wants more government transparency and work on business initiatives.

Dennis O'Brien, Councilman At-Large: The first minority party House Speaker in Pennsylvania history focused on healthcare issues and anti-crime legislation — including prison reform.

Homicide rate highest in Philly

- Philly's murders per 100,000 residents well above other big cities
- Number nearly doubles that of Dallas' third-worst homicide rate

In a week dominated by end-of-the-year lists, Philly has topped yet another. Unfortunately, this No. 1 spot is nothing to brag about. Out of the country's 10 largest cities, Philadelphia has the highest murder rate.

There were 326 killings as of early Friday evening, though police have not yet released an official year-end count and there are at least two additional homicides that have yet to be classified as occurring in 2011 or 2012. In 2010, there were 306 murders; and there were 302 in 2009.

This year's unofficial tally amounts to about 21.4 murders per 100,000 people, though that figure includes the eight infant victims from the Gosnell case in 2008.

The rate is high compared to the other most populous cities — the second-highest rate is Chicago's, at 15.7, followed by Dallas, with a rate of 10.9, according to reports.

Mayor Michael Nutter maintains that compared with the 392 murders in 2007, the year before he was first sworn in, homicides are down.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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2012's first slaying

PHILADELPHIA. The city's first homicide of 2012 occurred just 10 minutes after midnight on Jan. 1, when Joseph Testa, 77, was stabbed in the chest in South Philadelphia. Testa died at 12:49 a.m. at a hospital. He was involved in an argument between two other men fighting over parking spaces. One man, Santo Mancuso, 52, was charged with murder for allegedly killing Testa. METRO

PAIGE OZAROSKI/METRO

Mummers. New Year's

▶Two members of a comic division club danced their way up South Broad Street on Sunday.

Two Street shined again

The 110th annual Mummers parade went off without a hitch, avoiding any weather problems — unlike 22 previous postponements. The Woodland String Band took home top prize in the string band division. For more results and photos, go to www.metro.us.

Officer injured in traffic stop

MOUNT AIRY. A 14th District police officer suffered a minor injury early this morning when a suspect sped off during a traffic stop, officials said.

The officer made the stop around 1:40 a.m. on East Washington Lane near Musgrave Street. As the officer approached the car on foot, the driver allegedly sped off, knocking the officer to the ground and dragging him.

The cop was treated for injuries to a leg and shoulder and released from Albert Einstein Medical Center. Police are still looking for the driver of the 2003 silver Cadillac. METRO/SDL

City youth leader enters 186th fray

▶Jordan Harris

PHILADELPHIA. The former head of the city's Youth Commission will run for state representative in the 186th District.

Jordan Harris, 27, stepped down as executive director to compete for the seat vacated by City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson. Harris was also co-founder of Youth Action Inc. and sits on the Police Advisory Commission. METRO/SDL

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Hockey world's eyes descended upon CBP

Winter Classic brought out all the stops, except a Flyers victory ◆ Home team falls 3-2 in cultural event

Three things

Here are a few observations from off the ice yesterday:

- The Roots were everywhere, from pre-game intros to a live performance after the second period. But what was up with that Flyers-related pep song?
- Those lovable Broad Street Bullies were honored, as members of those 1970s Cup teams were recognized after a nearly 10-minute long video tribute.
- Flyers fans let a few "USA, USA" chants escape during the singing of "O Canada." That was immediately followed with a "Let's Go Flyers" chant at puck drop.

Some Flyers and Rangers tried to play it off as just another hockey game. Just another chance to pick up two points.

Nice try, guys.

With The Roots dialing up pre-game intros and Patti LaBelle performing the National Anthem, there was nothing ordinary about yesterday's NHL Winter Classic at Citizens Bank Park.

While it is true the Rangers' 3-2 victory over the Flyers netted them two points, the game was a throwback to those days spent skating outside with friends, of children dreaming of playing in the NHL.

"Skating on the outdoor ice with that many people, it was almost like a dream come true."
BRAYDEN SCHENN, FLYERS FORWARD

"I played a lot of pond hockey as a kid, and now doing it out on a big stage like that is pretty cool," Flyers forward Brayden Schenn said.

The Classic lived up to the hype, especially when snow began falling in the second period. That first flake was preceded by three goals in a two-minute span — two from the Flyers (Schenn, Claude Giroux) and one from the Rangers (Mike Rupp) — after a slow-moving first period.

That momentum worked to the Rangers' advantage. Brad Richards' hard wrister 5:21 into the final frame proved to be the game-winner.

"You see the crowd, you see how excited they were," Flyers chairman Ed Snider said. "I only wish we could have given them a win."

MIKE GREGER
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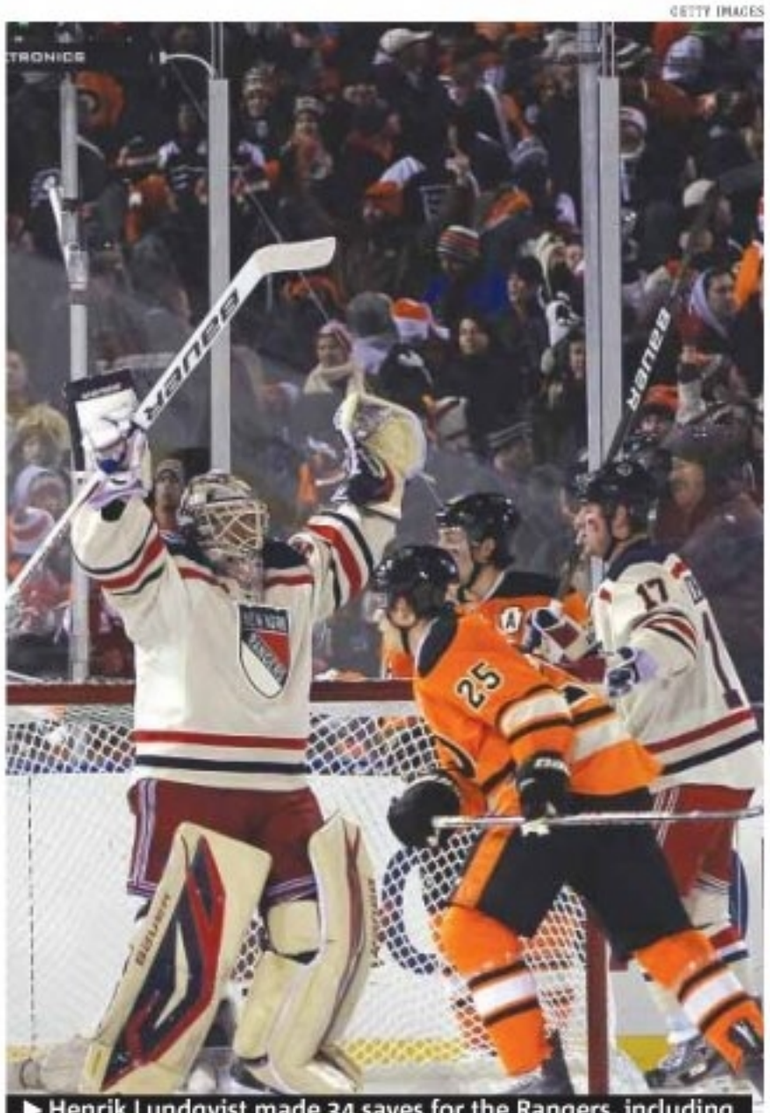

▶ Henrik Lundqvist made 34 saves for the Rangers, including Danny Briere's penalty shot with 19.6 seconds left.

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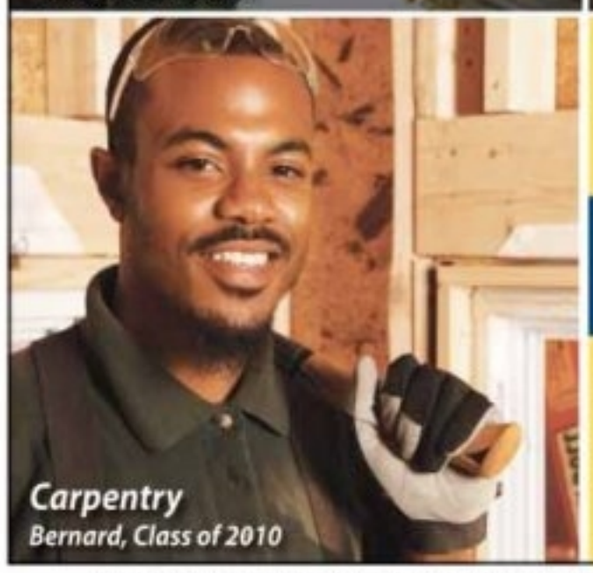

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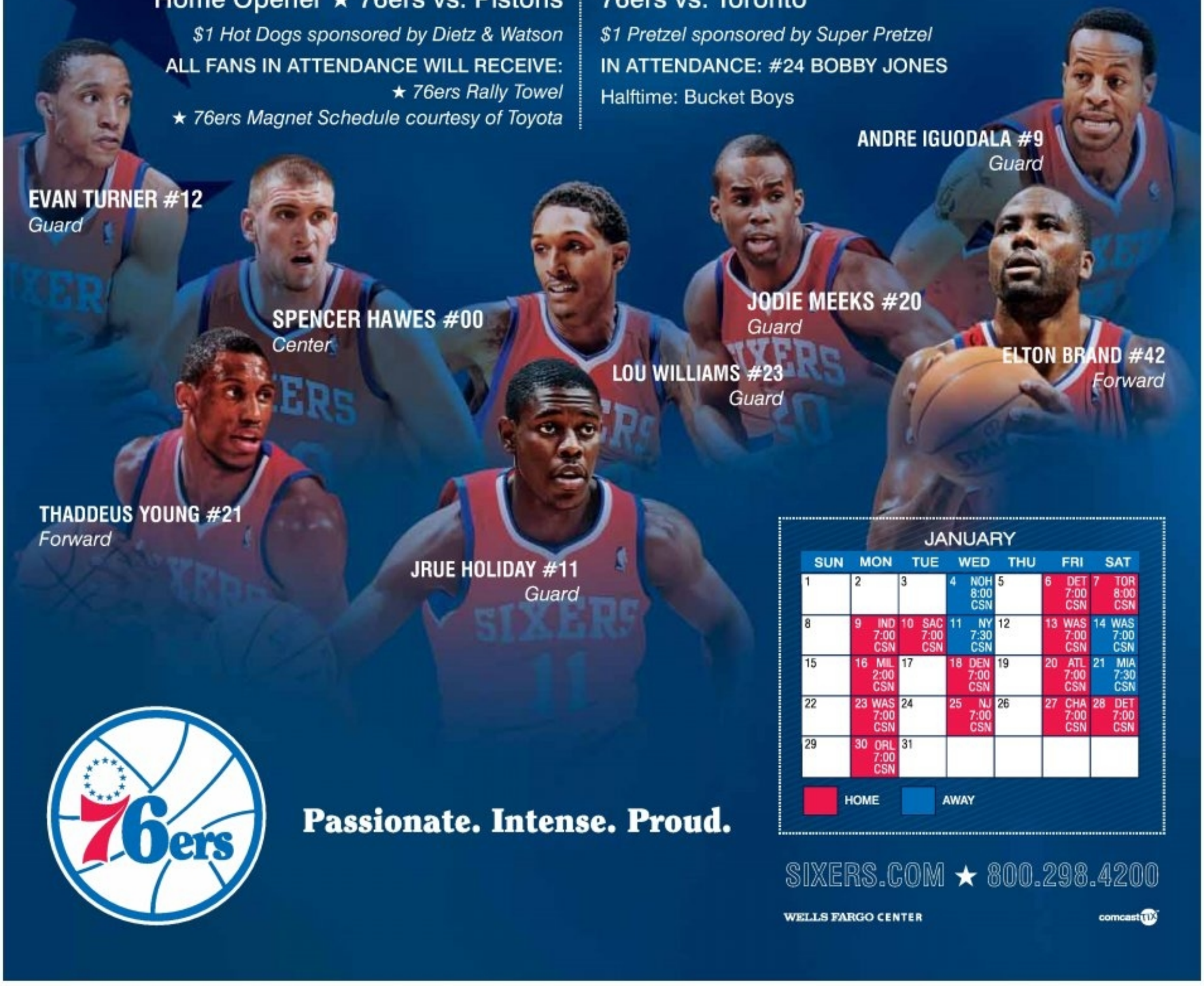

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15	16 MIL 2:00 CSN	17	18 DEN 7:00 CSN	19	20 ATL 7:00 CSN	21 MIA 7:30 CSN
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Gift returns set for a record?

NEW YORK. After the holiday party comes the hangover for retailers: handling millions of returns this week.

With a Christmas season that has seen record e-commerce sales coming to a close, returns should hit an all-time high on Tuesday for United Parcel Service.

550K+
UPS expects to handle more than 550,000 returns today.

The delivery company expects to handle more than 550,000 returns on Tuesday, a record that's up almost 8 percent from a year earlier. Several other days during the first week of 2012 will also top half a million returns, UPS said.

"This will definitely be the busiest year for returns," Ken Burkeen, a marketing director at UPS, told Reuters. **REUTERS**

Santorum surges, poised for surprise as right wing votes

With time running out, rivals of Republican Rick Santorum raised doubts about his conservative record

Santorum, a second-tier candidate until a jump in the polls occurred last week, claimed the momentum as he and the other Republican candidates barnstormed across Iowa making final arguments and trying to bolster turnout ahead of today's Iowa caucuses.

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and libertarian Congressman Ron Paul are neck and neck in the lead in Iowa polls.

But Santorum, uniting voters on the Christian right who have been divided for months, is making a late move and could pull off a victory.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, who could suffer with a good Santorum showing, tried to slow the momentum of the former Pennsylvania senator, who lost his re-election bid in 2006. **REUTERS**

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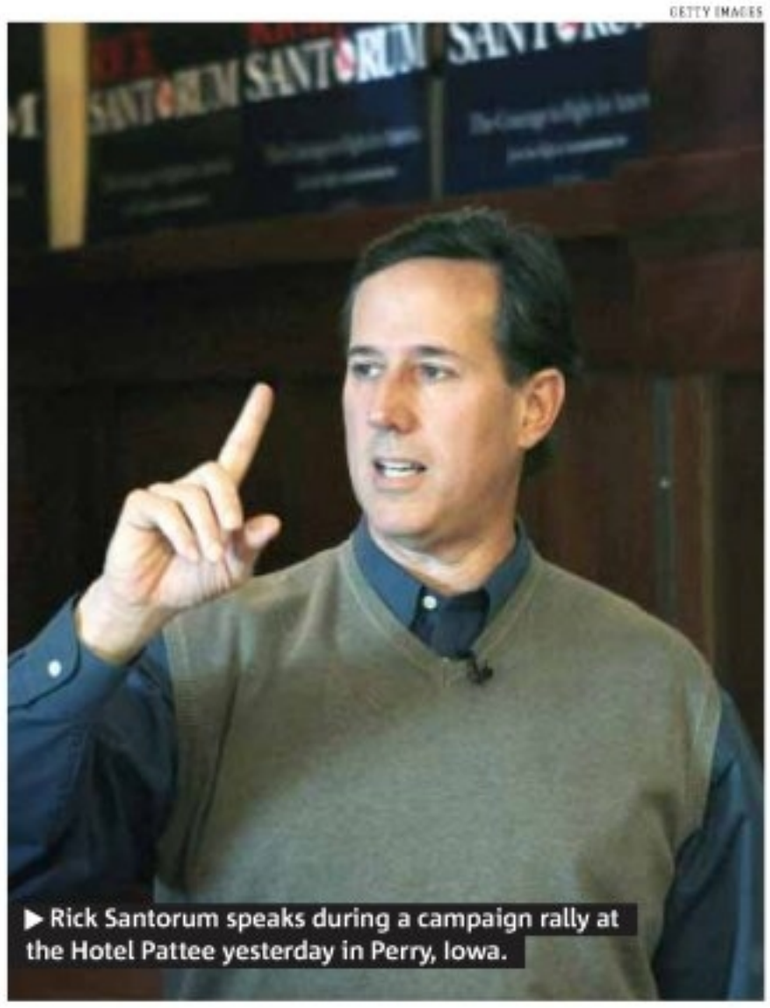


▶ Rick Santorum speaks during a campaign rally at the Hotel Pattee yesterday in Perry, Iowa.

Romney eyes Iowa advantage

DES MOINES. With the Iowa caucuses looming today, it seems inevitable that the former Massachusetts governor will do well in, if not win, the first contest in the race for the Republican nomination for president.

But even as Romney appears positioned to take control of the Republican race, a question hangs over his campaign: Can he connect with voters on a personal level any better than he did during his losing campaign in 2008 — or even inspire them?

Nearly three days of traveling with Romney in Iowa revealed a candidate who has improved significantly in face-to-face encounters with voters, but who still has difficulty inspiring them.

Romney's crowds are respectful, but not the boisterous groups one might associate with a front-runner. **REUTERS**

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

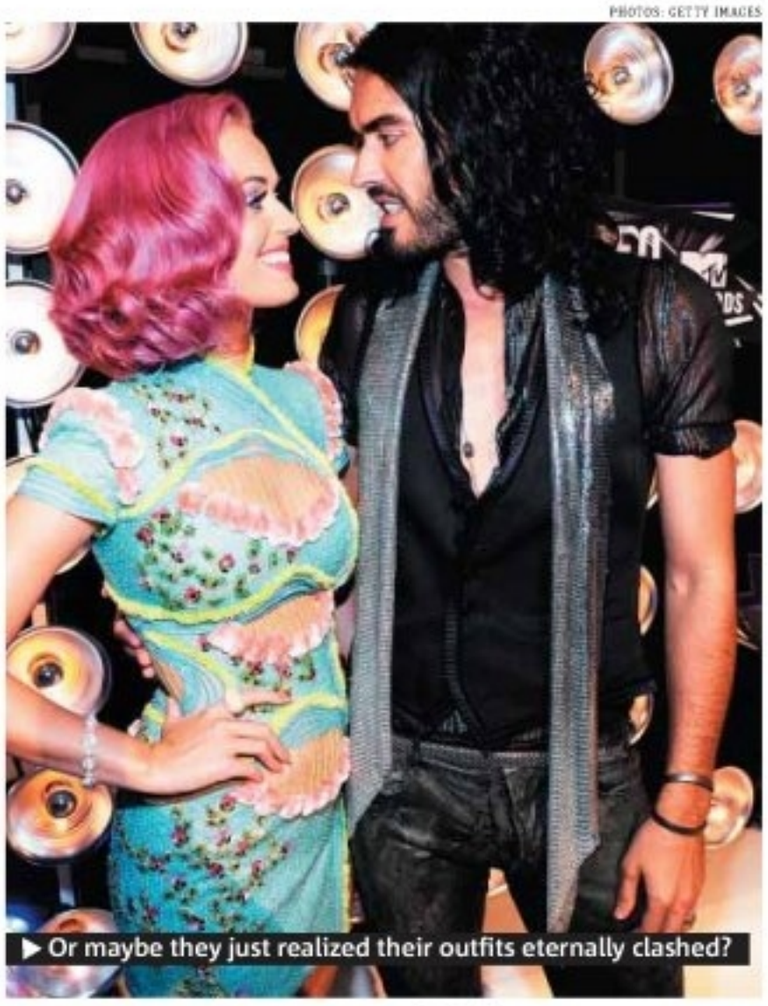
Katy Perry and Russell Brand: What happened?

Without knowing either of the stars, please join me as I wildly speculate what drove Brand to file divorce papers last week after only 14 months of marriage.

Too much, too soon
The two met in 2008 on the set of Brand's 2010 comedy "Get Him to the Greek." After meeting again at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2009, the two started dating. Four short months later, the two got engaged, when Perry was just 25. The two got married at a tiger sanctuary in India eight months later.

Different lifestyles
Brand is a famous former heroin and sex addict as well as a recovering alcoholic — and is now sober and so likes to stay in. Katy Perry sings songs about blacking out on Friday nights — and likes to party with people like Rihanna. Oh, and Perry's family are evangelical Christians. And, well, you read the part about Brand being a recovering sex addict, right?

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Or maybe they just realized their outfits eternally clashed?

The fame game
This has been the busiest year for Perry — she become the first woman in the 53-year history of the Billboard Hot 100 to send five songs from an album to No. 1 with her sophomore album "Teenage Dream." She went on a massive tour, performed at most awards shows and debuted a rainbow of new hair colors. Brand starred in "Arthur." Enough said.

Her bra finally ran out of whipped cream
You know what they say: In any relationship, it's important to keep things interesting in the bedroom.

▶ Tyler and Brady

Tyler asked the 'Big One'

Steven Tyler proposed to longtime girlfriend **Erin Brady** over the Christmas holiday, and apparently some members of his family are less than thrilled about the news, according to TMZ. "She's just not nice," a source close to the family says. "She's just been mean to the family." There's reportedly some extra tension over the fact that Tyler didn't consult with the family before popping the question.

Talking points

McConaughey makes baby mama legit

It only took five years and two children together, but **Matthew McConaughey** is now sure he wants to settle down with **Camila Alves**. "Just asked Camila to marry me. Merry Christmas," McConaughey posted on his WhoSay page on Christmas Day, accompanied by a photo of the pair kissing. There's no word on when the wedding will take place, but chances are the happy couple aren't in any hurry.

Alves and McConaughey

Saldana and Cooper: It's on!

After splitting with her fiance of 11 years in November, **Zoe Saldana** has reportedly moved on to People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive, **Bradley Cooper**, according to E! News. "They are totally dating," a source says of the pair, who co-star in the upcoming film "The Words." The source adds that the pair is trying to keep the budding relationship under wraps.

The Royal couple keeps things low-key

Prince William and his wife, **Kate Middelton**, decided to cancel a holiday ski trip because of the continuing recession, according to Us Weekly. "The palace thinks it would send a bad message to be away during this time," a source says. The royal couple instead spent Christmas with the Queen before spending the rest of the holiday week with Middleton's family.

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Ashton Kutcher has high hopes for the new year, Lindsay Lohan wants to be alone, Kelly Clarkson is not a morning person and Albert Brooks already feels like a failure.

▶ **@aplusk**
In 2012 let's agree to a resolution to feel one another's pain & joy, & create the peace we desire through proactive generosity. XO ak

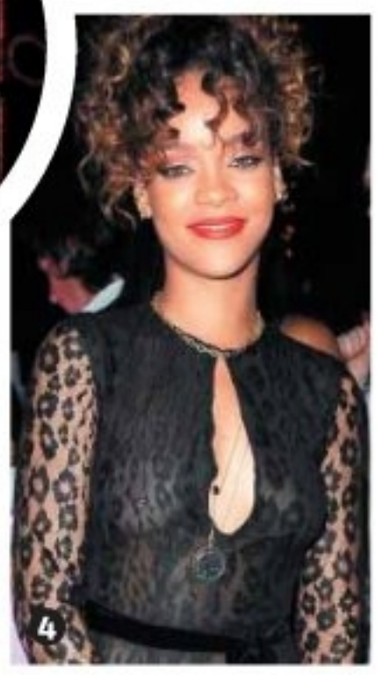
▶ **@lindsaylohan**
It's good to sit with yourself and have alone time

▶ **@kelly_clarkson**
5:30 AM is definitely too early to have to wake up.

▶ **@AlbertBrooks**
My New Year's resolution was to stop tweeting.

Kelly Clarkson

myentertainment



How celebrities rang in the new year

1. Lady Gaga and New York Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** shared a kiss as they celebrated the beginning of the new year in New York City.

2. To ring in 2012, Real Housewife **Gretchen Rossi** partied at Drink Houston in Houston, Texas.

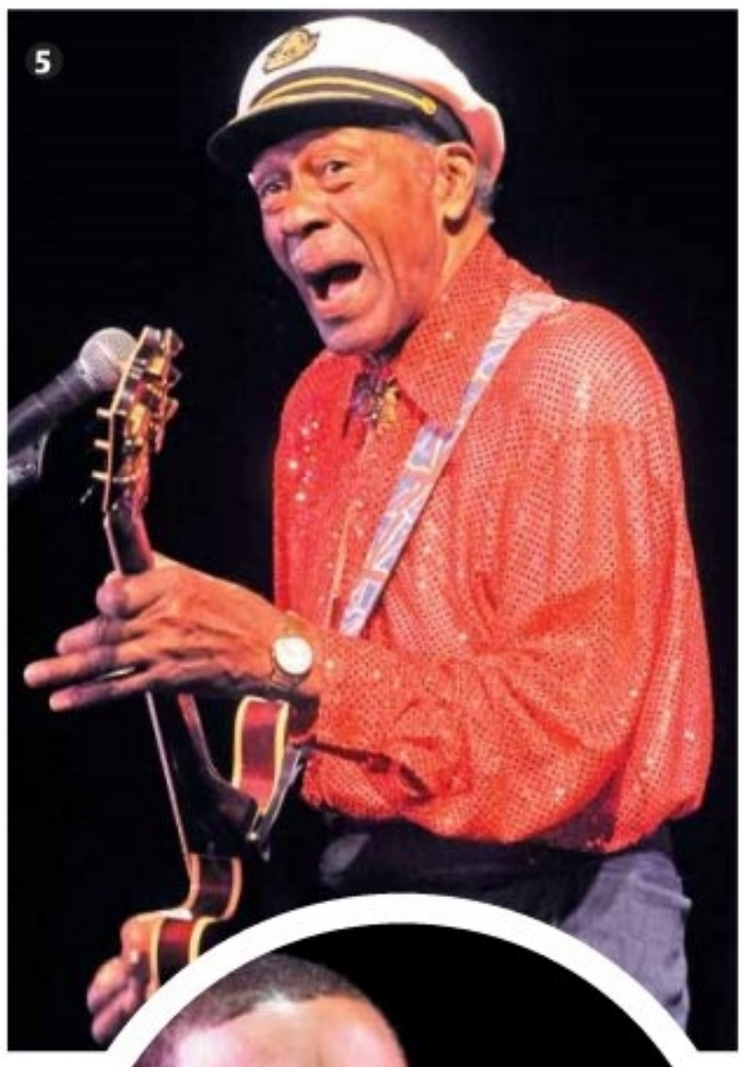
3. Rapper **Drake** performed onstage during "New Year's Eve 2012 With Carson Daly" in NYC's Times Square.

4. Rihanna attended Sean Diddy Combs' CIROC's New Year's Eve party at a private home in Miami.

5. Chuck Berry, a sprightly 85, entertained concert-goers at B.B. King Blues Club & Grill in New York City.

6. Wynton Marsalis performed during his show, New Year's Eve With Wynton Marsalis, at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City.

1: ISMAIL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES
2: BOB LEVEY/GETTY IMAGES FOR CIROC VODKA
3: NELSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES
4: GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES FOR CIROC VODKA
5: BOBBY BANK/WIREIMAGE
6: FERNANDO LEON/GETTY IMAGES



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TV watch list

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Busey

'Celebrity Wife Swap'

REALITY. Actor Gary Busey trades partners with televangelist Ted Haggard in the inevitable celebrity edition of this reality schlock. Sigh. At least TV can't possibly get worse than this. **Series premiere, 9 p.m., ABC**

'Work It'

COMEDY. Oh, wait. The premise of this comedy is two dudes dress as women to get jobs? OK, sorry "Celebrity Wife Swap" — this is officially scraping the barrel. **Series premiere, 8:30 p.m., ABC**

'Jane By Design'

DRAMA. A case of mistaken identity lands a quirky high-school student a gig at a hip fashion house. At least she doesn't have to cross-dress to get hired. **Series premiere, 9 p.m., ABC Family**

'The Biggest Loser'

REALITY. Twenty new contestants compete, including Roy, a 306-pound 63-year-old who looks like Santa. Or maybe that's just our Christmas hangover talking. **Season premiere, 8 p.m., NBC** AMBER RAY

TRAE PATTON/NBC

▶ Someone give Santa — er, Roy — his coat!

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"Trade you a bag of chips for a sandwich?"
DIGITAL VISION

How you can help your kids get a healthier school lunch

Sarah Wu went undercover to explore cafeteria food — and was pretty upset with her findings She's out to improve your kids' midday meals

Sarah Wu — aka blogger "Mrs. Q" — is taking school lunches by storm. The Chicago working mom's blog (www.fedupwithlunch.com) and subsequent book of the same name is taking schools to task for offering students unhealthy meals. But every parent can take steps to make sure kids get nutritious lunches.

"Parents really need to get involved," Wu tells Metro. "The best way is to use the PTA. They should air their views and raise concerns."

Because every school uses different caterers, change is on a case-by-case basis. "Parents should research the caterers," Wu advises. "After parents complained, one provider in Chicago started using more local produce and antibiotic-free chicken. That's a huge step. Also, take a look at what's in the school vending machines."

Packed lunches are an alternate option, but Wu has found that parents can be uneducated on what's healthy and what's not. "Parents have to educate themselves and read labels meticulously," she adds.

Good nutrition sense, however, starts at home in the kitchen. Wu advises parents to involve their children with cooking. "Don't be afraid to make a mess," she says. "Show children how easy and fun it is to cook. It's so helpful for their development of good eating habits."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

How Sarah Wu got started

In 2009, Wu — who has since won praise from Jamie Oliver and other healthy food activists — ate school lunch every day for a year and blogged about it under the pen name Mrs. Q. "I was amazed at how processed it was," she says about the initial lunch that set her journey in motion. Processed food has little natural nutrition. "It was so unsatisfying. I felt hungry soon after."

PIXLAND
Log on to do good.

Feeding healthy bodies and minds

Birds Eye has partnered up with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign to form the Feed Kids Better initiative, with a goal to donate vegetables for up to one million meals. Parents can visit www.facebook.com/birdseyevegetables to build their own veggie-powered plates and teach their children the importance of vegetables in a healthy meal. For every plate created, Birds Eye will donate vegetables for 10 meals to Share Our Strength. METRO/ME

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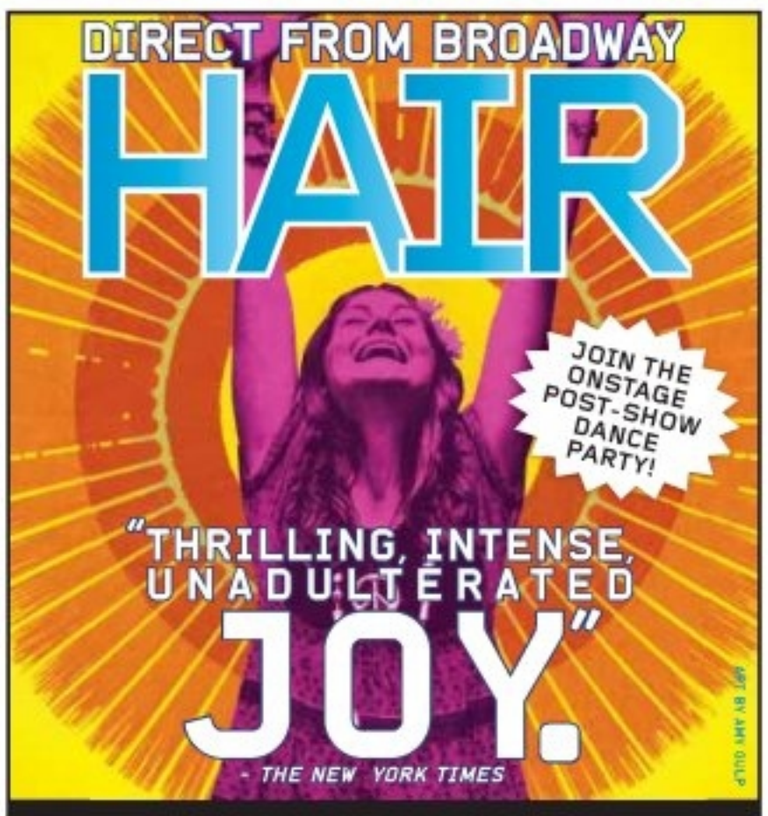
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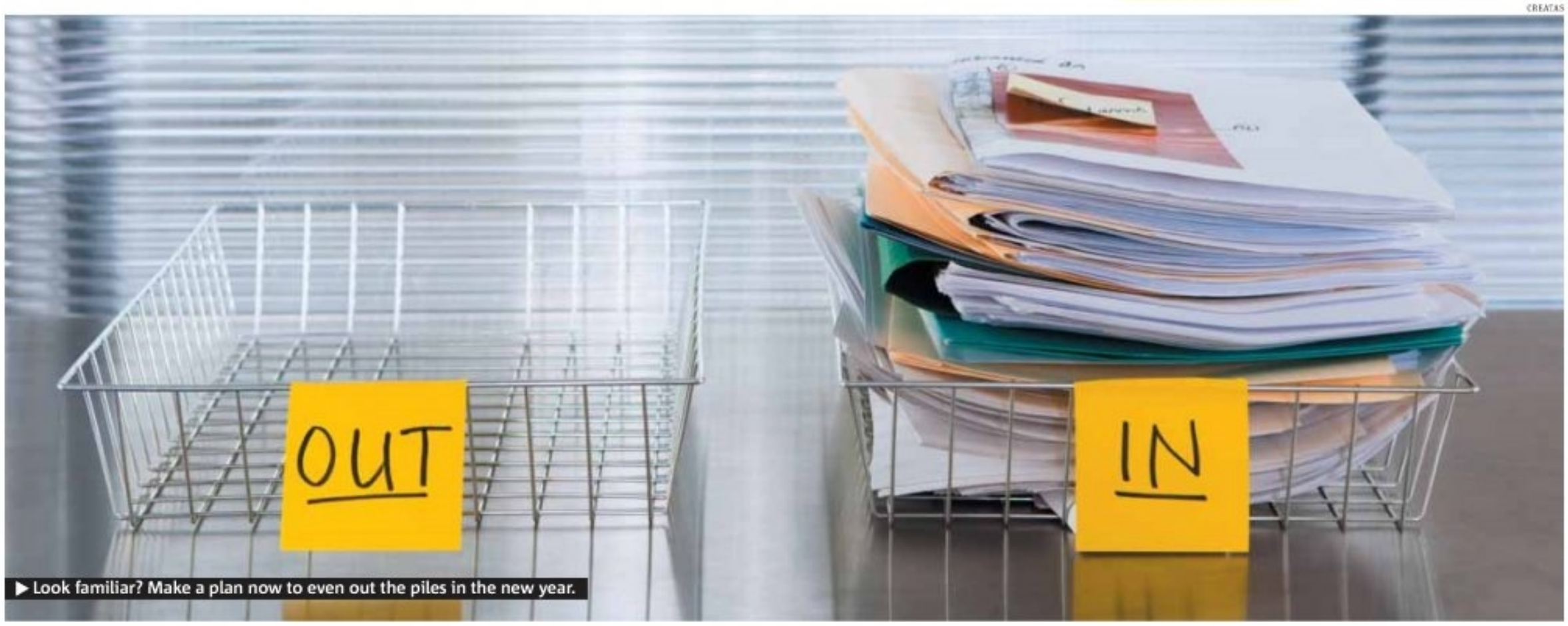

▶ Look familiar? Make a plan now to even out the piles in the new year.

Managing work overload in 2012

Hope you enjoyed that break, because it's post-holiday crunch time How to catch up on work and prevent stress in the months ahead A New Year's resolution to get you started

True, it's a new year, but that doesn't mean that stack of work you left for after the holidays vanished. We asked a few experts for tricks for keeping your head above water when you feel swamped and preventing work from piling up in 2012.

Be realistic: Commit only to the things that you can realistically manage. "When we over-commit, we have a tendency to let team members and clients down," says Michael Timmes, a human resources specialist at business consulting firm Insperity.

Organize the smart way: It's crucial to stay organized, but take it one productive step further and incorporate personal deadlines into your short- and long-term projects. "Planning should take place on multiple levels daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually," says Timmes. "With proper planning, we can focus our time on the important non-urgent items and minimize the time spent in a crisis mode."

Communicate: It's not easy admitting that you made a mistake or that you need help, but sometimes you need to do just that. "Being able to communicate with your managers and senior executives will improve your relationships at the workplace and overall decrease your stress level," says Peter Handal, CEO of Dale Carnegie Training.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Limit distractions

"Turn the distracting dings, vibrates, buzzes and beeps off," says Marsha Egan, author of "Inbox Detox and the Habit of Email Excellence." "If possible, try checking your e-mail and phone messages a limited amount of scheduled times per day."

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How does your boss perceive you?

Advice

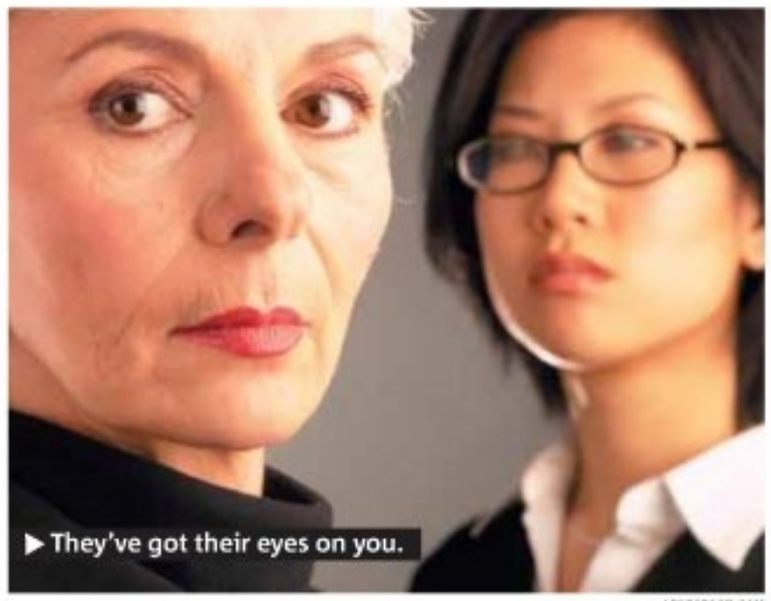
DAN SCHAWBEL
PERSONALBRANDINGBLOG.COM

Have you ever wondered about how your manager perceives you at work? We don't know how we're coming off until other people tell us. Recently, I surveyed over 500 professionals on my blog and found that 92 percent are interested in how they are viewed by management. By knowing what you're doing right and what you could be doing better, you can get promoted faster.

Here are three ways to become a more effective leader by controlling your perceptions and becoming more self-aware.

Ask for feedback regularly

Most companies have performance reviews for employees quarterly and annually in order to identify who should be promoted, remain in their current position or be laid off. Don't wait — you need to ask for feedback regularly from your managers so that you can correct your behavior before these reviews even take place. When you ask for feedback, you're showing that you care and want to improve.



▶ They've got their eyes on you.

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Be mindful of your online presence

What you publish online and how you present yourself can affect how you're treated at work — and if you get promoted. Think twice before posting personal messages online and configure your privacy settings so that your co-workers can't see the next party you're planning.

Develop your emotional intelligence

CareerBuilder.com reports that 71 percent of employers value emotional intelligence over IQ. There are thousands of qualified candidates, but only a few that truly fit in the corporate culture. To develop your EI, you need to learn how to manage conflicts, become a team player, listen to what other people say before speaking, lead by example and keep your emotions in check.

– Dan Schawbel is the author of "Me 2.0," the Managing Partner of Millennial Branding, LLC and a personal branding expert.

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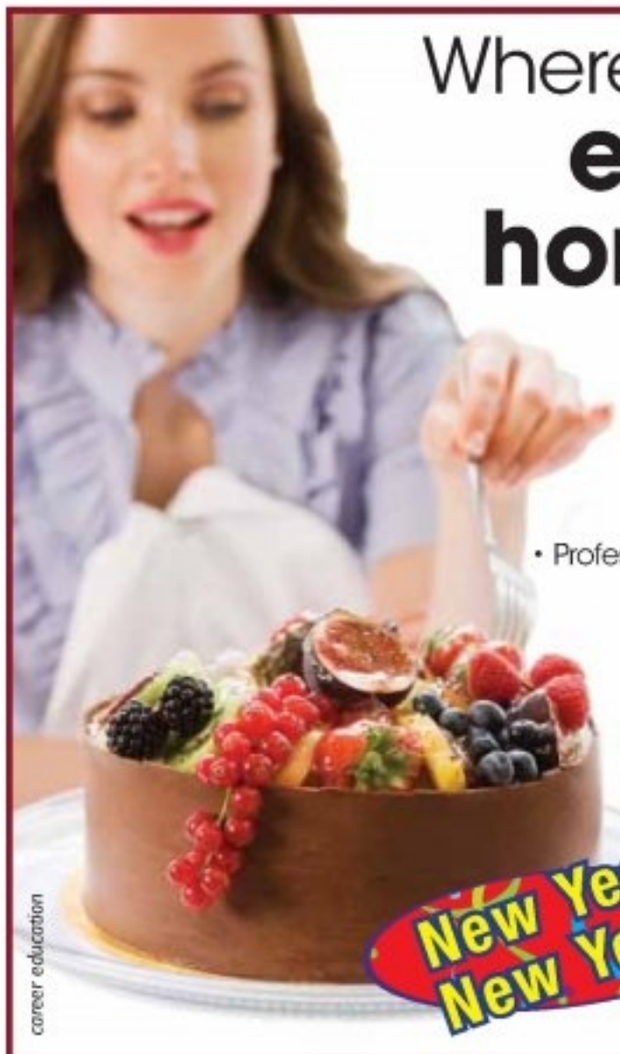

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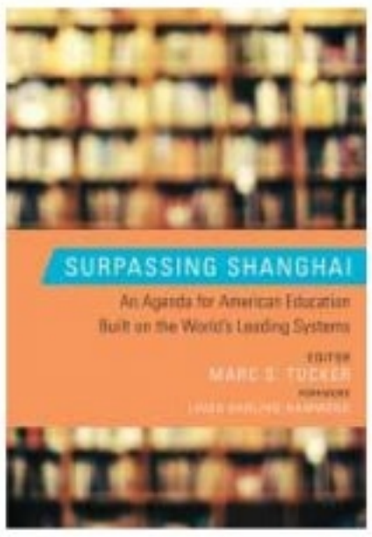
Setting new standards in a new world

In 'Surpassing Shanghai,' the National Center on Education and the Economy recommends looking to other countries for education strategies

In 2010, the secretary of education, Arne Duncan, asked the National Center on Education and the Economy — along with others — to create a report on education strategies of the United State's top competitors. The official report was submitted last December, and this month Harvard University Press is releasing a volume of policy recommendations based on the research: "Surpassing Shanghai: An Agenda for American Education Built on the World's Leading Systems." The book is edited by the president of the NCEE, Marc S. Tucker, who has long campaigned for creating more thorough standards in U.S. education.



Why has the idea of standards in education been such a driving force in your career?
When the performance of our students is compared with that of students in other countries, we tend to come out somewhere between the middle and the bottom distribution. This country ought to be very, very concerned about that. Most economists agree that in the long run, a country's standard of living is a function of how well educated [and] how skilled its people are. Time after time, when we look at how these other countries are doing this, we find that they have set high standards and put curricula in place.

Was No Child Left Behind a step in the right direction?
It was, in the sense that the country got concerned about standards. But No Child left it up to the states to determine their own standards, and they imposed severe consequences on schools that failed to meet those standards, so many of the states deliberately set low standards to ensure that their schools wouldn't have to face the music.

From the past

In some conservative circles, you're demonized for a set of policy suggestions you sent to Hillary Clinton in 1992 — the "Dear Hillary letter." What is your response?
These critics say it was a plan to turn their children into little cogs in the industrial wheel, with regional boards that will assign children — Soviet-style — to a particular career. You won't find a word in that letter to support that view. I urge you to Google the text and read it. I've never entertained any thoughts like that. It's absurd. What I was doing in that letter was simply saying that we don't have the kind of system that most top-performing countries have.

BRUCE WALSH
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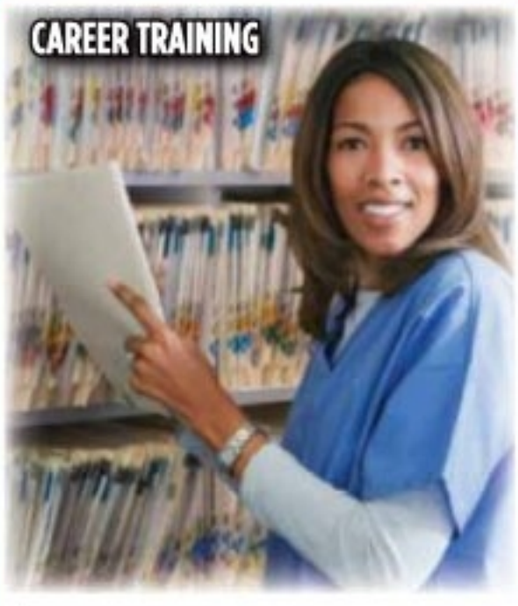
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myletters&games

Letters

letters@metro.us

World leaders: Do you care?

New Year's day has come and gone, and many resolutions have been made. But by and large, few will really be kept. Our world governments and leaders need to have resolutions that truly can be enacted. The issues of this world are truly most troubling. Look at this list: worldwide unemployment, European debt crisis, war in Afghanistan, development of nuclear weapons, earthquakes, famine — and let's not forget the polar bears are losing their natural habitat. The question I have is, where is the concern for our planet in 2012 and where is the peace on Earth? Do enough people in position care enough? I think as a human race it is one resolution that should be kept. Even if our world leaders can't do the right thing.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL

Congress ought to be laid off

National polls have shown consistently that the electorate is thoroughly disgusted with our dysfunctional Congress. If any member of the labor force received a job evaluation as negative as the one Congress is getting, he or she would be expected either to improve performance or to look for a new job.

GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL

What about Hitler, Paul?

If you follow Ron Paul in his foreign affairs logic, the question he should be asked is what would he have done with Hitler? Since Hitler did not "attack" the U.S., I guess he would not have gone over to Europe to fight off Hitler? With his logic, the concentration camps would have had to wait for someone else to liberate them and save Europe? Guess London and France would have been on their own? Someone should ask him if the Vatican City was surrounded by countries who hated them, had nuclear weapons and threatened to wipe them off the face of the Earth — would he care? Guess not!

JOAN BACHMAN, VIA E-MAIL

Don't believe this guy one bit

The new "sincere/grassroots" approach by House Speaker John Boehner (complete with tears) comes across about as genuine as a pork chop is likely to be served at a Bar Mitzvah. Sir, you're not fooling anyone.

HERB STARK, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** No one will have to tell you what to do or say in order to make everyone happy. You'll have no trouble being the center of favorable attention.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You're likely to be more effective guiding things from the background than by being out in front, making loud noises. Maintain a low profile when you're handling a delicate situation.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** It behooves you to seek out the action and to get involved personally. The greater the crowd around you, the more effective you can become.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Try to be especially attentive to what or who can make you money. Although you'll have to work for it, making the right choices could yield you more than usual.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you're prepared to be philosophical about life's offerings, events should ultimately unfold to your liking. Regardless of how things go at first, remain tenacious and hopeful.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** There are few who are as creative as a Gemini when it comes to making the most out of the least, which you are apt to prove once again.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Don't be surprised if your popularity suddenly soars. You're in a cycle where those who know you only slightly will want to get to know you better.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Hesitating to elevate your sights will inhibit you from achieving what you truly want and secretly believe you can obtain. If you don't trust your talents, no one else will.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** In order for your finer qualities to emerge, you are likely to require some kind of stimulating challenge to bring them forth. It could be anything from a game to a big business deal.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Your family is likely to enhance your feelings of belonging and, in doing so, instill confidence in you. There is no stronger force than security.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Considerable pleasure can be derived from being brought up to speed concerning the doings of your friends and family. Ring up your favorite newshawks to get all the juicy info.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you are prepared to produce, the compensation for which you're hoping will be there. The present cycle you're in may be brief, but you'll be able to garner more than usual.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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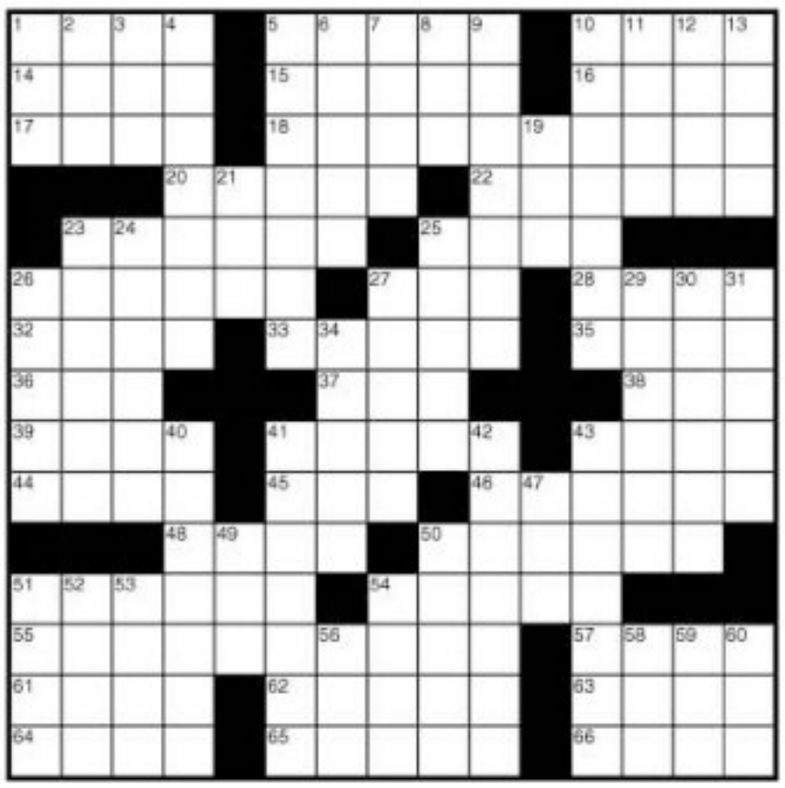

Across
1 Wolf's expression
5 Felt sore
10 Collar site
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15 Davit
16 Nobel Prize city
17 Tiny Tim's pudding
18 Future energy source? (2 wds.)
20 It merged with BP
22 Revises
23 Herons and egrets
25 Unforeseen problem
26 Fraidycat
27 APO users
28 Octopi have eight
32 Horse color
33 Tea cake
35 Vacillate (hyph.)
36 Taiga roamer
37 Pull laboriously
38 __ Star Pictures
39 Knighted Guinness
41 Was an omen of
43 Beach toy
44 Chatty starling (var.)
45 Explorer __ Helen Johnson
46 Gauchos' ropes
48 Bumpkin
50 Postponed action
51 Diners
54 Insurance giant
55 Go-ahead (2 wds.)
57 Gigantic
61 Duffel filler
62 Ms. Lauder
63 "A Summer Place" star
64 Ties up the phone
65 Gave medication
66 Tooth anchor

Down
1 Drink like Rover
2 Bracket type
3 Cassowary kin
4 Fasting time for some
5 Honda models
6 Gator cousins
7 Luminous circle
8 Put a stop to
9 Goalie's job
10 Bunch of flowers
11 B __ __ baker
12 Tramp along
13 Billions of years
19 Ms. Thurman
21 Debussy subject
23 Like sheep
24 Rise and shine
25 Burn slightly
26 Elite
27 Red-waxed cheese
29 Spin around
30 Countless
31 Muddies up
34 Almost but not quite
40 Long-term occupations
41 Snow vehicle
42 Consarned
43 Powwow
47 Arabic for "son of"
49 Coffee dispenser
50 Giggle (hyph.)
51 Like souffles
52 Type of rug
53 Salad bowl wood
54 PR persons
56 Equal, in combos
58 Historian's word
59 __ Paulo, Brazil
60 Explosive letters

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to holiday's crossword

E	M	I	R	■	S	G	T	S	■	I	B	E	A	M
B	O	N	A	■	T	R	I	O	■	C	I	R	C	A
B	L	U	E	J	E	A	N	S	■	E	K	I	N	G
E	A	R	■	U	R	N	S	■	S	P	I	C	E	■
D	R	E	A	M	E	D	■	C	A	A	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	P	O	■	C	R	U	C	I	A	L	■
I	T	C	H	Y	■	B	U	I	C	K	■	S	O	W
R	A	H	S	■	C	A	B	B	Y	■	G	A	L	E
S	R	A	■	O	A	S	I	S	■	M	A	P	L	E
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■	I	S	L	E	S	■	D	E	B	T	■	N	I	L
E	L	L	E	N	■	F	A	T	C	H	A	N	C	E
P	L	A	N	E	■	A	R	E	A	■	R	O	A	N
A	S	T	E	R	■	R	E	S	T	■	K	Y	R	A

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

Free national parks days 2012

Our national parks get even better with several fee-free days at more than 100 spots that usually charge admission Three great highlights

MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tourists watch the "Old Faithful" geyser, which erupts on average every 90 minutes in the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Have you visited your local national park yet? For 17 days in 2012, admission to more than 100 of the country's national parks will be free, thanks to the National Parks service. Those include some of the most popular: Grand Canyon National Park, Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone National Park and Acadia National Park.

Visits to the national parks are a great choice for family trips — most parks have a Junior Ranger Program, where kids complete activities lead by park rangers to earn badges. Be sure to check out these added attractions if you go:

Grand Cookout at Grand Canyon National Park: On the North Rim, eat under the stars and enjoy live entertainment at this chuckwagon-style dinner event.

Historic Yellow Bus Tours at Yellowstone National Park: Restored in 2007, these colorful 1937 buses have tours ranging from one hour to one day. If it's sunny, you'll get to bask in the sun as your driver (and guide) opens up the convertible top.

Yosemite Falls Trail at Yosemite National Park: It's just a short trek to the base of the highest waterfall in North America, whose three cascades combine for a total drop of 2,425 feet. In May, visitors are likely to get soaked on this short route during the peak water flow.

If you go

Park admission is free Jan. 14-16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend); April 21-29 (National Park Week); June 9 (Get Outdoors Day); Sept. 29 (National Public Lands Day) and Nov. 10-12 (Veterans Day weekend).

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3

On the move

Spags, Morris out

Let the rumors of Steve Spagnuolo's return commence. The Rams coach and former Eagles assistant was fired after three seasons in St. Louis — in which he compiled a 10-38 record. Tampa's Raheem Morris was also ousted after three seasons and a 17-31 record. METRO

PSU falls

Nits end trying year with loss

There was no fairy tale conclusion to Jay Paterno and Penn State's whirlwind season. PSU fell behind 17-0 in the first quarter against Houston in the TicketCity Bowl and never recovered, losing 30-14. METRO

Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI
THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

NHL UNVEILS CLASSIC ROB JOB FOR FANS

The NHL Winter Classic represents the biggest con in professional sports. Years from now, when the fad inevitably passes, psychologists will study the phenomenon as an alarming example of mass hypnosis.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send submissions to letters@metro.us.

Just strip away the emotion from the 3-2 Flyers loss to the Rangers and look at the situation objectively. Yesterday, a hockey game unfolded in a building totally unsuited for the sport, in weather conditions far from ideal, in front of thousands of fans who had no idea what they were watching. Welcome to the Winter Classic, an event designed only for the chic and the sheep.

The Classic does have a purpose. It is superb at selling redesigned jerseys, T-shirts and anything else worthy of a special logo and a bloated price tag. And it finally answered the age-old question of what happens to Citizens Bank Park in the winter. Money happens. Lots and lots of money.

The problem is not what the event actually was designed to be, a chance to honor a cool sport in a unique way. The gathering of former Flyer greats was easily the best part of the festivities. Seeing Bernie Parent, at 66, take one final bow was terrific, as was the return of Bobby Clarke, Bob "The Hound" Kelly and the other heroes of our last championship hockey teams.

The real issue is a recurring theme in sports these days: pure, unadulterated greed. Somehow, in the guise of returning hockey to its frozen-pond roots, the NHL has turned the Winter Classic into a new way to exploit its most loyal fans. Is there any other logical explanation for the requirement that season-ticket holders buy an outdoor Phantoms game at inflated prices? The Phantoms don't even play here anymore, and we didn't care about them when they did.

Fans who scored tickets for yesterday's contest no doubt shared a common thought as they squinted at the distant rink: I paid *how much* for this? At least the first Classic was waged with snowflakes in the Buffalo air, adding an outdoor flavor to the event. Yesterday, it was just cold and windy. Ho hum.

Quoted

"The real issue is a theme in sports: pure, unadulterated greed."

I know, I know. Where's my sense of adventure? I understand the appeal of something different, something daring. My skepticism is not with the idea of playing a hockey game outdoors. If it'll get more people to pay attention to the NHL, fine. But the key word here, as usual, is *pay*.

In the end, a pro sports league found another way to charge more money, cram in more people and market more merchandise. A cool thing for the fans to do at the end of the holidays? They seemed to think so. But the event was not about them. It was only about their money.

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 610 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

Goodbye to another bad pick

Bill Conlin, the best baseball writer ever, stands accused by seven people, including his own niece, of unimaginable sexual assaults when they were children. Even merely writing those words is difficult because I have known and admired Conlin for the past 40 years.

The first instinct when this hideous issue hits so close to home is to block it out, to deny the possibility. But then account piles upon account and it becomes impossible to ignore anymore. If these allegations are true, then Conlin is not a Hall of Fame writer or a quirky acquaintance. He is a monster.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Conlin

When I brought this story up for discussion on my WIP radio show, the best I could summon was an air of total disbelief. For this tepid posture, I was lambasted because I have been so loud and defiant about the alleged abuses involving Jerry Sandusky and Penn State.

I would love to offer a defense for this apparent contradiction, but what's the point? At the time of the Conlin bombshell, I was a human being before I was a talk-show host or a columnist. It wasn't just that I wanted to give Conlin the benefit of the doubt; it was also that I didn't want to acknowledge the fact that maybe we don't really know anyone anymore.

Now that the allegations have sunk in, I feel the same revulsion for Conlin that I did for Sandusky. My admiration for Conlin's brilliant writing career is gone now, replaced by a horror that defies words.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ It was more of the same for Andy Reid's Eagles in 2011.

Birds brass in line for silent film

It may be a brand-new year, but it's the same old Eagles. The Moral Victory Tour 2011 rolled out of town Sunday after another incredible run. The Birds won their last four games, escaped a losing season and established themselves as the most dangerous NFL team not in the playoffs.

If you totally blocked out reality, this was another successful season for the biggest bunch of truth-spinners in sports. Oh, sure, they all lamented another lost opportunity for a franchise that has failed to win a title in 52 years, but not with any real conviction. Hey, they finished strong. Wait till next year.

If you read this space regularly, you already know all of this because I predicted it in my column on Dec. 6. The Eagles went from 5-8 to 8-8 four years ago and tried to sell this same insulting message. They are not just perennial also-rans, they are predictable ones.

The saddest part of the whole fiasco is that they think we're all as delusional as they are. They think we don't realize the last four wins came against four awful quarterbacks. They think we haven't noticed that they only played well when the games didn't matter.

Moral victories are for losers. Philadelphia sports fans are not losers. They deserve much better than the 2011 Eagles.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi ...

1 **Andy being Andy.** Anyone still on the fence about Andy Reid needs to watch, in its entirety, his news conference after Sunday's win. He was controlling, defiant, elusive and rude. If he had personally spit in the eye of every Eagles fan, the effect would have been no more appalling.

2 **A shady move.** Eagles running back LeSean McCoy said all week he'd be playing against Washington despite a sore ankle — but then didn't dress on Sunday. In his third season, McCoy is finally picking up Reid's philosophy on how to deal with annoying questions from the media.

3 **Lavy makes correct call.** Peter Laviolette never takes the easy way out. That's what makes him such a good coach. Despite the Flyers' loss in the Winter Classic, his decision to use the hotter goalie, Sergei Bobrovsky, instead of Ilya Bryzgalov was the right one — for the right reason.

Injured Jagr exits Classic

Jaromir Jagr knew after his second shift of the second period that something wasn't right.

The Flyers wing was removed with 15:11 left in the second and never returned. The 39-year-old Jagr was hit in the calf earlier this week and couldn't skate at full speed during yesterday's Winter Classic.

"I just couldn't skate hard, and I didn't want to just be [on the ice] to be there. I knew at that point I couldn't help my teammates," said Jagr, who has 12 goals and 19 assists.

Jagr sat on the bench to support his teammates. He said if there had been a power-play opportunity, he would have tried to go back out.

"Maybe we get a shot at a 5-on-3 [power play] and you don't have to skate that much," Jagr said. MIKE GREGER

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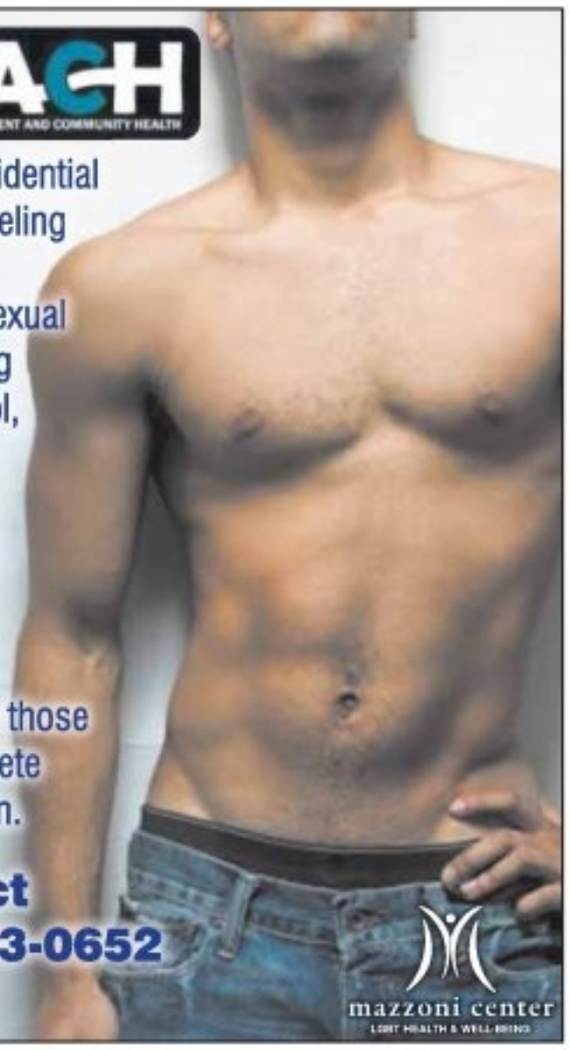

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- **Duration of discussion:** 2.75 hours
- **Where:** Center City Philadelphia, PA (convenient to mass transit and free validated parking)
- **Honorarium:** $200.00

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1305 WEST MAIN STREET. NORRISTOWN, PA 19401 - (610) 275-2470
AUCTION DATE: 1/10/2012 TIME: 9:00 AM
Charles Jaggers Room#1034, Tori Jones Room#2050, Jerrell Atkins Room#2076, Donald Trumbore Room #3016, Mark Lewiski Room #3018, Sonya Rembert Room #4027.

U-HAUL CENTER OF ROXBOROUGH
8300 RIDGE AVE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128 - (215) 482-7015
AUCTION DATE: 1/10/2012 TIME: 11AM
Howard Greene Room#B1033, Deborah Delaney Room#B1060, Robert Davis Room#B1063, Emily Mcmanus Room#B2077.

U-HAUL CENTER OF CHELTEHAM
7400 OGONTZ AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19138 (215) 224-9440
AUCTION DATE: 1/10/2012 TIME: 1:00 PM
Levina Hills Room #127, Rhonell A Seabreeze Room #142, Gwendolyn Bullock Room #157, Kim Coles Room #171, Bryson Mills Room #172, Theodore Norman Room #187, Myra Ellerbee Room#200A, Jeong O Yun Room#L228.

U-HAUL CENTER OF COLMAR
250 BETHLEHEM PIKE (RT.309). COLMAR, PA 18915 - (215) 822-8080
AUCTION DATE: 1/11/2012 TIME: 9:00 PM
Sheila Weiss Room#107, Heather Hunter Room #145, Raymond Hoover Room#248, Jamel Dixon Room#RV11 & RV13.

U-HAUL CENTER OF COLMAR
272 BETHLEHEM PIKE (RT.309). COLMAR, PA 18915 - (215) 822-2276
AUCTION DATE: 1/11/2012 TIME: 10:30 AM
Dexter Anthony Room#0307, Crystal Thompson Room#0531, Roxanne Wells Room#0534,Brandon Womer Room#0735, Juan Gonzalez Room#1012-14, Gayle Mccormick Room#1205, Eileen Thomas Room#205.

U-HAUL CENTER OF FEASTERVILLE
333 WEST STREET RD, FEASTERVILLE, PA 19053 - (215) 364-0375
AUCTION DATE: 1/12/2011 TIME: 2:00 PM
Michael Foley Room#102, Jonathan Hurt-Phillips Room#202.

U-HAUL CENTER OF ROOSEVELT BLVD.
7750 ROOSEVELT BLVD. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19152 - (215) 335-2525
AUCTION DATE: 1/12/2012 TIME: 11:00 AM
Esther Moore Room#1100, Andre Coleman Room#1304, Wilbert Pierce Room#2213, Elionai Galarza Room #2911, Mark Ames Room#3213, Georger Markakis Room #3802-04.

U-HAUL CENTER OF ALLEGHENY
747 WEST ALLEGHENY AVENUE PHILADELPHIA PA 19133 - (215) 227-3900
AUCTION DATE: 1/12/2011 TIME: 1:00PM
Linda Goudy Room#0203, David Moore Room#0335-37, Eloise Clark Room #0407, Latangla Whitehead Room #0412, Thomas Ferrar Jr Room #0815, Albert Broomer Room #1011, Lonzie Wiley Room #1135.

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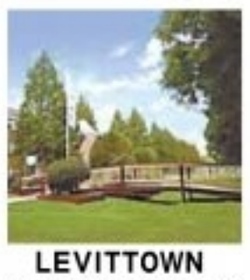
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